



Rockwell Charter High School

3435 E. Stonebridge Lane
Eagle Mountain, UT 84005
(801) 789-7625

Governing Board Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Library

AGENDA

Attendance: Misti DeFarias, Kelly Hall, Dale Erling, Mike Smith, Brad Barlow, Dave Persinger, Julie Young, Nate Adams

- I. Pledge : 7:01 Dale
- II. Public Comment: 7:02 - None
- III. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:
 - A. March 16, 2022 - Motion to approve: Julie, Second by Brad -Unanimous approval from Board
- IV. 2021-2022 Financial Review and potential vote: 7:03 Nate- Bottom line is healthy now. Estimated amount of what we are going to receive and brings us up to the 11% mark. There are some areas we can save on toward the end of the year. We don't want to go over budget so we might want to consider adding to places. The state doesn't mind if we add to the budget but they do mind if we go over budget. Good news, the lunch program has finally been paid. Bumped 4571 and 4572 up to get more accurate. Not a lot of areas of concern. Keeping an eye on line for athletic materials. But savings from 641 and 612. Also watching line 630. Added Essar revenue forecast to line 650 and other. Getting those reimbursements sent into the state. Everything on track for Employee Retention credit. Next month putting out RFP and next board meeting unseal the bids and add it as an agenda item. Putting together a preliminary budget for next year. Needs to be approved in June. Any questions?

Dave: Line 1742: registration fees/revenue. What are the registration fees for? Will we get the rest of it?

Misty answer, the fees when a new student comes.

Nate: We have not adjusted to account for the 50 student gap. It will have to be adjusted down because we didn't get to the estimated student count.

Dave: Will every line item need to be adjusted for that?

Nate: No, some will be, but not all need to be.

Dave: Line 3005 for exchange students - no revenue?

Misty: If allotted J1 spot we get funding the following year. We had a spot but the student ended up moving. So we won't receive funding. All other exchange students are F1 students and they pay registration fees.

Dave: 131 Concurrent enrollment - we don't pay anything for that?

Nate: We have a teacher employed by Rockwell that splits the library and the concurrent enrollment.

Dave - Special education funds?

Nate: Special education is very fluid at Rockwell. Not a spot when originally planned the budget. No change in the student profile makeup, just some offsets.

Dave: 240

Nate: No cutbacks, we plan for x amount of increase in premiums, this year no large increase so we could back those off.

Dave: How are line 650 and 734 different? How did 734 go above original budgets?

Nate: line 650 is state grants 734 is unrestricted funds. 734 is up because of the purchase of laptops and wifi upgrade.

Dave: Where is offset in revenue for the school vans?

Dale: Line 1410.

Mike: June when we vote on next year's budget? Nate: Yes. Mike: Before that meeting is there a time frame in mind for the finance committee? Nate: No timeframe, but would like to meet beforehand a couple of times. Also would like to meet with Misty a few times even before that so the meeting can be productive with the committee.

- V. 2022-2023 Budget Review and potential vote 7:22 Dale, already covered and no vote needed.
- VI. Fraud Risk Assessment 7:22 - Mike - Went through it and noted that 7,8, and 9 are the only three we didn't mark. We do not have a fraud hotline. Audience member Royce: it would suffice to post the state fraud hotline by the end of June. We are going to table this till June to get the number posted and get the extra points.

- VII. New Committees: Fundraising and Building - 7:25 Dale: No assistance director which is hoped for for next year. Propose we have a fundraising committee: It will do 2 things. Look for grants and opportunities for additional money not obvious. Also, fundraising with the FSO organization. Need one board member to chair that committee and then others to support.

Additional committee is the building committee to address the needs of the building maintenance. Someone to stay on top of it and keep it manageable over time as the needs arise. Things like technology equipment needed as we go in the STEM direction, costs associated with online school, etc. Someone who is actively looking for these needs and helping to keep on top of them.

Board director can appoint someone but would like for board members to appoint themselves.

Dave: Internal but external as well such as the roof?

Dale: Yes. All the aspects of the maintenance and upkeep and future needs to support Rockwell goals.

Dale motion to establish these committees. Mike second. Unanimous voice vote.

Dale asked for volunteers. Dave volunteered. Mike advises a member of the financial committee to sit on the building committee to advise, not chair, but to be present. Brad volunteers to be on the committee as a rep of the finance committee. Dale, asked Kelly to make Committee Reports part of the regular agenda. Misty recommends Julie for the fundraiser committee. Julie can do part but wants additional support. Ideally it will have parents, and others to help. Julie and Dave on the Fundraising committee committee. Brad and Mike on the Fundraising committee. Janitor is making a list of what needs to get fixed now and later and should be a part of the building committee.

Will begin reporting maybe in May, but definitely by June.

- VIII. Board Training: Policy Development 7:35 - Dale: Powerpoint on Policy Development

- IX. Changing of School Name: Discussion and vote 7:51 - Dale: original charter was for high school and the name didn't complement the Junior high part of the school that was added after the original charter. We want to bring attention to the junior high portion so there has been some discussion about changing the name or using a DBA. A lot of ramifications. Everything from Payroll checks, to the gym floor, to the sign on the building.

Dave: When we go to DBA can the name be completely different? Answer: yes. One thing to consider is if we go away from name altogether or just drop the "High" portion or abandon the Rockwell name?

Dale, Mike, Misty: It will increase cost to abandon the name. Dale recommends painting at the same time if we abandon name due to all the aesthetics that would need to be changed.

Dave: The numbers are not increasing, do we need to name change and rebrand to turn around school? Or can we turn around school with Rockwell name? If we keep going down this road, the school won't make it.

Mike: Doesn't disagree, just wondering if name change will make a difference.

Kelly: It could create interest and inquiry.

Julie: We aren't putting a lot into Marketing. Maybe take marketing money and use that strategy for a year before we make a major name change.

Dale: When he looked at the numbers, there was a number of people that left Rockwell for Cedar Valley. By the 24/25 school year, Cedar Valley will be as large as Westlake before Cedar Valley opened. Alpine has no intention to bond for more schools out here. All the schools being built are primary schools. Nothing is happening to address the secondary school numbers. Only the Military school, but it is not the same role as we play here. There is an opportunity here to bring in parents and students that are uncomfortable with the large numbers.

Brad: We are going to change the brand before we change the branding. Change the reputation. Marketing department can sell what the Rockwell brand is.

Dave: If money was no object, this is a good time to rebrand. But with financial limitations, and the fact that we haven't spent anything on marketing, we should go down that road.

Dale: Other charters spend around \$47,000/year on marketing. We don't even reach the double digits in cost of marketing. Ideas include wrapping the vans, yard signs, banners in front of the school, etc. We need to do these things now. If we can reach 400 students the paradigm changes and we can look at other things.

Thought to change the name to "Rockwell Charter School"

Julie: Thinks we should table the name change and try the marketing route to get enrollment up.

Misty: Do we want to ask the stakeholders for feedback? Answer from board members: yes, this is a good idea.

Action item: Misty will talk to other stakeholders, parents, staff about name change. Leave it open to let them suggest a new name or to modify existing name. Then come back and revisit.

- X. Dress Code Policy: Discussion and potential vote 8:07 Dale - Everyone has a physical copy. Reminder from Misty that the last review, we changed a few things.

Dave: What is your impression of a uniform dress code?

Misty: Believes that we will ultimately lose students. If we did move toward a uniform it would be a risk to see how many we would lose because of that and then need to get back.

Dave: Trying to figure out how much we need to stay the course when we are trying to change our brand. Maybe uniforms would be a way to make a statement.

Misty: If dress code is implemented, we wouldn't have much a dress code problem. But the way it is, teachers do not want to dress code students for fear of repercussions.

Dave: do we say this existing dress code is real and enforce it? Or change things?

Misty: We need to be careful to not alienate those students that can't afford the new uniforms.

Dale: His family personally helped a family at the school with clothing. The cost to the families could be an issue. Is the existing code standard with the other schools in the area? Answer: Yes. Recommends the addition of pictures.

Dave: Will we actually enforce the dress code?

Misty: Teacher in audience. Can we ask her?

Teacher: Teacher afraid to enforce dress code because students retaliate. Teachers do dress code but students don't listen so teachers question if it is worth the fight to continue dress coding students. This teacher loves the idea of

a dress code, but honestly doesn't know if it would help. Agrees with the points already made. Some teachers don't see dress as a hindrance so don't enforce it.

Misty: At teacher inservice asked what academic rigor means at Rockwell. ASKed how they can move up in academic rigor. One thing suggested is Exhibithon night for the community. Another is to revisit the discipline policy. Misty siggested they do that at the beginning of summer. Dress code and attendance will be hit the most at the inservice meeting. If the teachers can create a discipline policy they support, then Misty can hold them accountable to the policy they created in the next school year. That is her recommendation for the Board, is to let the teachers create it.

Julie: How do you get all the teachers on the same page as far as enforcing the rules?

Misty: Thought a lot about it and one idea is a randomized classroom check to see who is dress coded and if the teachers have taken action. If not, then the teachers will have a consequence on place for themselves for not dress coding. Females dress code females and males dress code females.

Dale: Royce, can I ask you what your opinion is?

Royce: Royce can think of 3 charter high schools that use a dress code and it is tightly connected to their identity and how the students see themselves. Question in how to help those who can't afford a uniform is spot on. It would be a fee and we would need to have waivers. There is a significant gamble in that. We have a reputation for both good and bad. We have gender identity minority that come here and it is not uncommon for some chater high schools to be a place for students who are otherwise bullied to find a home. We should not be afraid of that. But not let it take over academic rigor as we are a school and this needs to be top priority. One more thing to note, the other schools are able to go to a full uniform because they are coming from a different economic status than we have here. Eagle Mountain by and large is not known for it's wealth.

Mike: Feels that uniforms will just add an expense line item to the budget. He hates uniforms in all shapes and sizes. If it had been a uniform school none of his kids would have come here. In a broader perspective, we would lose more anti-uniform kids than gain pro-uniform kids. Dave's point is well taken on whether the dress code is just a piece of paper or not.

Dave: If teachers are on the front line, let's get their input on how to enforce the dress code. One idea: pick random students for a dress code check in the office. It relieves some of the pressure from the teachers.

Misty: We have a strict dress code but it is not consistent.

Dale: Leave it as it is and revisit it in the summer after the teachers have an opportunity to give input and ideas. Board agrees with idea.

XI. Director Report 8:31pm Misty -

- A. Maintenance Updates - Julie came in and took pictures with Misty and waiting to hear back on report. We will need to do an RFP for the maintenance needs. Carpet, Painting, etc. Just now while we were meeting, we got a bid back about painting. Came in at over \$84,000 estimated total. Removed \$7000 to have paint done before carpet removed and replaced.

Had roofers come but waiting on bid.

Nate will help Misty with the RFP's for these items.

Julie: for electrical, we just need to purchase the supplies, but they will not charge for the labor.

Misty: Where do we start?

Dale: We need to waterproof the building, it is kind of forcing our hands. We need to look at the roofing issues first as a priority. Dale and Mike agree to prevent mold, electrical damage, etc. Julie and Kelly agree as well.

Mike: This whole thing will be for the Building Committee? If an RFP doesn't commit us to spend the money we should RFP everything. Dale agrees.

- B. Enrollment Report - We are sitting about 105 students for next year. Only 37% responses from current students. We have had about 9 more students added and another 3 coming for a tour in the next couple days. Most are coming from local high schools. A few move ins, and a few moving in over the summer that are looking at the school.
- C. Exhibit A and Online Applications update - Liked all the elements except the key elements. They want them more specific. Misty and school committee are meeting this week to revisit those so they can get them resubmitted. We don't need to attend the State school board meeting for Exhibit A but for the online portion we want to implement. We need to prepare a 10-15 minute presentation on Why. Already met today to see how the presentation will look. Board members can be there or participate

via zoom. There will be 3 other schools there as well. Misty asked for 3 teachers and herself to speak. Meeting is May 12th.

Dale: Good work to get such good feedback. Misty: Couldn't have done it without the teachers involved.

Mike: Online with the budget? Nate: A whole new budget that will affect the revenues. Can put together something hypothetical to look at.

Misty: The teachers all have a lot of the hardware they will need as we move forward and won't impact the budget. We would be hiring part-time licensed teachers and a possible part time counselor for just the online portion.

Misty: Last of all, I want to remind you of graduation on May 26th, at 4:30 pm at Red Barn at Thanksgiving Point. Lots of different activities are coming up. Encourage us to participate.

XII. Executive Session 8:50 Dale - Motion to close public and open executive session. Second by Mike. Unanimous voice vote. Closed the public session and started the executive session.

A. The Board will consider a motion to close the meeting to hold a strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and/or to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, and/or the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in conformance with § 52-4-204 and 52-4-205 et. seq., Utah Code Ann.

Executive session Closed : 9:18pm Dale motioned, Kelly Second, unanimous voice vote. Session closed and the public portion resumed.

XIII. Adjournment 9:19 Mike motion to adjourn, Brad second, unanimous voice vote. Board meeting adjourned.

Upcoming Board Meetings.....

May 10, 2022

June 14, 2022